8: Senfft--283
116, 273, 625, 681

(1905) 1906

Woleaians
Woleai

The coconut stocks on Oleei were normal. Two years ago extermination measures were taken against the rat plague and by now the trouble has decreased considerably. Since the recall of the police post who was in charge of enforcing these measures nothing had been done and the natives had started once more to drink sour toddy. In a condition of complete drunkenness a native had first threatened a dealer with a long knife and then with a spear. The man was taken to Jap and later sentenced on that island. A rumor circulated that three years ago an Australian dealer, who was old and feeble and who had been working on Oleei for a Jap firm, had died an unnatural death. I started extensive investigations on the spot which really produced incriminating material. It seems that a Sonsol native attacked the dealer in his bed, made him unconscious by blows of a hammer and then strangled him. It is said that the housekeeper of the dealer --a fellow islander of the murderer--had been an accomplice to the crime. Other witnesses are said to exist on the islands of Lamutrik and Satuwal. The main witnesses needed for the trial had to be called and set out on the voyage. At the present time the two accused are on Palau.

In a general meeting I discussed everything of importance and informed the population that once more I would leave behind a policeman with far-reaching powers. Fines in the form of naturalia were imposed for neglect of the tree protection law directed against destruction by rats and for the consumption of sour toddy.

9: Senfft--14 (1903) 1904 Woleaians
116, 625, 643 Woleai

In the first place I stationed two reliable policemen at the island who can in case of emergency ask three former soldiers living now on the island, for help and who received the order to prevent the drinking of toddy [MR: which he considered a cause of dysentery] and to use force if necessary. The chiefs cannot be relied upon in this respect. Their authority is limited by many considerations and is not greater than that of our village magistrates. There is no chief over the whole group of islands and the above mentioned Follebu in Yap is also the ruler over Oleai.